

III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying product licenses using hardware and product identifications, comprising the steps of:

providing a computer hardware component;

accessing a verification file, wherein the verification file includes a plurality of product identifications and a plurality of hardware identifications, which correspond to particular end-user computer systems; and

comparing, during installation of a product, the plurality of hardware identifications with a corresponding hardware identification stored on the hardware component.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising writing license information in a registry of the hardware component separate from the verification file if a match exists between the plurality of hardware identifications and the corresponding hardware identification stored on the hardware component and writing a message indicating an invalid installation attempt in the registry if a match does not exist between the plurality of hardware identifications and the corresponding hardware identification stored on the hardware component.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising logging the hardware identification in a log maintained by a producer of the product and logging a message indicating

an invalid installation attempt in the log if a match does not exist between the plurality of hardware identifications and the corresponding hardware identification stored on the hardware component.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the logging step comprises logging the hardware identification on a server.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the verification file is encrypted, and wherein the encrypted verification file is decrypted prior to the comparing step.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising installing a program on the hardware component when a match is established between the compared hardware identifications for a particular program identification associated with the program.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the hardware component is a processor, and wherein the hardware identification is a processor identification.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

installing a verification application on the hardware component; and

using the verification application to access the verification file.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising removing the verification application, after the comparison step.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step comprises downloading an encrypted verification file from a server, prior to the comparing step.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the accessing step comprises accessing an encrypted verification file from a drive associated with the hardware component.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying product licenses using hardware and product identifications, comprising the steps of:

providing a processor;

installing a verification application on the processor;

locating a verification file with the verification application, wherein the verification file includes at least one processor identification and at least one product identification; and

comparing, during installation of a product, the at least one verification file processor identification with a corresponding processor identification stored on the processor.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

writing license information in a registry of the processor separate from the verification file if a match exists between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding processor identification stored on the processor;

writing a message indicating an invalid installation attempt to the registry if a match does not exist between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding processor identification stored on the processor;

logging processor information in a log maintained by a producer of the product;

logging a message indicating an invalid installation attempt in the log if a match does not exist between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding processor identification stored on the processor; and

removing the verification application from the processor.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the processor information comprises the processor identification.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising installing the product when a match exists between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding processor identification stored on the processor.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the locating step comprises searching with the verification application for a verification on a drive associated with the processor.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the locating step comprises searching with the verification application for a verification on a network server.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the verification file is encrypted, and wherein the encrypted verification file is decrypted prior to the comparing step.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the verification file includes a plurality of processor identifications, which correspond to particular end-user computer systems, and a plurality of program identifications.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for verifying product licenses using hardware and product identifications, comprising:

an access system for accessing a verification file, wherein the verification file includes a hardware identification and a product identification;

a comparison system for comparing, during installation of a product, the hardware identification of the verification file with a corresponding hardware identification on a computer hardware component;

a registry system for registering license information in a registry separate from the verification file if a match exists between the verification file identification and the corresponding processor identification and for writing to the registry a message indicating an invalid installation attempt if a match does not exist between the verification file identification and the corresponding processor identification; and

a log system for logging hardware information in a log maintained by a producer of the product and for logging a message indicating an invalid installation attempt in the log if a match does not exist between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding

processor identification stored on the processor.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the comparison system further compares the product identification of the verification file with a corresponding product identification of a product being installed on the hardware component.

22. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the hardware component is a processor, and wherein the hardware identification is a processor identification.

23. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the verification file is accessed from a drive associated with the hardware component.

24. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the verification file is accessed from a network server.

25. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the verification file is encrypted, and wherein the system further comprises a decryption system for decrypting the encrypted verification file.

26. (Currently Amended) A system for verifying product licenses using hardware and product identifications, comprising:

a computer hardware component;

a verification file having a plurality of hardware identifications, which correspond to

particular end-user computer systems, and product identifications;

an access system for accessing the verification file; and

a comparison system for comparing, during installation of a product, the verification file hardware identifications with a corresponding hardware identification stored on the hardware component, and for comparing, during installation of a product, the verification file product identifications with a corresponding product identification of a product being installed on the hardware component.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, further comprising:

a registry system for registering license information in a registry of the hardware component separate from the verification file if a match exists between the verification file identifications and the corresponding hardware identification and between the verification file product identifications and the corresponding product identification and for writing to the registry a message indicating an invalid installation attempt if a match does not exist between the verification file identifications and the corresponding hardware identification and between the verification file product identifications and the corresponding product identification;

a log system for logging hardware information in a log maintained by a producer of the product and for logging a message indicating an invalid installation attempt in the log if a match does not exist between the verification file processor identifications and the corresponding hardware identification stored on the processor or product and between the verification file product identifications and the corresponding product identification; and

a decryption system for decrypting the verification file.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the log is on a server.

29. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the verification file is accessed from a drive associated with the hardware component.

30. (Original) The system of claim 26, wherein the verification file is accessed from a network server.

31. (Currently Amended) A program product stored on a recordable media for verifying product licenses using hardware and product identifications, which when executed, comprises:

an access system for accessing a verification file, wherein the verification file include[s]
a hardware identification and a product identification;

a comparison system for comparing, during installation of a product, the hardware identification of the verification file with a corresponding hardware identification on a computer hardware component;

a registry system separate from the verification file for registering license information in a registry if a match exists between the verification file identification and the corresponding hardware identification and for writing a message indicating an invalid installation attempt to the registry if a match does not exist between the verification file identification and the corresponding hardware identification; and

a log system for logging hardware information in a log maintained by a producer of the

product and for logging a message indicating an invalid installation attempt in the log if a match does not exist between the verification file processor identification and the corresponding processor identification stored on the processor.

32. (Original) The program product of claim 31, wherein the comparison system further compares the product identification of the verification file with a corresponding product identification of a product being installed on the hardware component.

33. (Original) The program product of claim 31, wherein the hardware component is a processor, and wherein the hardware identification is a processor identification.

34. (Original) The program product of claim 31, wherein the verification file is accessed from a drive associated with the hardware component.

35. (Original) The program product of claim 31, wherein the verification file is accessed from a network server.

36. (Original) The program product of claim 31, wherein the verification file is encrypted and wherein the system further comprising a decryption system for decrypting the encrypted verification file.